(c) whether Government would like to consider to set up capital light industries in the small scale sector in Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. As per Annual Survey of Industries 2001-02 (latest available) conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), 348 factories (both private and public) were functioning in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Based on the results of the Third All India Census of registered small scale industrial (SSIs) units and the sample survey of unregistered SSI units with the reference year 2001-02, an estimated 73,125 SSI/Tiny units (both registered and unregistered), including cottage industries, were functioning in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Out of these, 26493 units were located in the Kashmir valley. There is scope for further development of small scale industries in this State.

(c) SSI units are set up by private entrepreneurs. However, for the promotion and development of the SSI sector, the Central Government assists and supplements the efforts of the State Governments concerned by implementing various schemes relating to fiscal and credit support, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing and entrepreneurial development, etc. The Government has also announced, under the new industrial policy, a set of incentives and concessions for the State of Jammu & Kashmir which, *inter-alia,* includes incentives for establishment of new indusrial units and substantial expansion of existing units, development of industrial infrastructure, setting up of design-cum-research centre for footwear and leather industry, setting up of Jammu & Kashmir Development Finance Corporation etc.

Indo-Russia agreement for space navigation system

2361. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have signed an agreement to build a Space Navigation System for civilian purposes;

(b) if so, whether India would have to make any financial contribution to this venture;

(c) the gains to India from this venture;

(d) whether it is a fact that proposed Space Navigation Systems are already available for sale in the world; and

(e) if so, the reasons for trying to build and research something which is already in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India and Russia have agreed to work together in the development, operation and use of the Russian Navigation Satellite system called GLONASS. However, the details of the commitments on both sides as well as the extent of services are yet to be worked out.

(d) and (e) The US Global Positioning system (GPS) provides navigation and positioning services. Participation in the GLONASS system will provide an independent and alternative option to GPS.

Offer to use EDUSAT to Foreign Countries

2362. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered the use of EDUSAT to countries in Africa for providing connectivity to Elementary and Higher Education and also Satellite based distant learning;

(b) if so, the details and names of the countries and their response to the proposal; and

(c) would India consider sharing its satellite data with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. India has not offered the use of Edusat to African countries for providing tele-education connectivity. However, a Project is under preparation to provide tele-medicine and tele-education connectivity to fifty-three countries of the African Union through a satellite-based network, based on Indian experience.

Completion of Projects

†2363. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects out of the projects under construction during March, 2001 have been completed.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.